

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 L-03 PRS-01 OES-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 NRC-07

DLOS-04 SAL-01 PA-02 IO-11 /094 W

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R 152140Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USUN NEW YORK 66

CINCPAC

DIA

UNCLAS SUVA 307

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM XP FJ

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNWFZ):

FIJI DEFENDS POSITION AT ROTORUA

REF: WELLINGTON 902 (DTG 100353Z MAR 76)

1. FOLLOWING NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON DECISION TAKEN BY SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM LEADERS MEETING IN ROTORUA, SUVA-BASED CONTINUATION COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC ISSUED STATEMENT EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GOF HAD BEEN "SO EASILY" PRESSURED INTO CHANGING THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION BY "THE BIG POWERS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND...SO THEY COULD CONTINUE THEIR ALLIANCES WITH THE UNITED".

2. ON MARCH 12, GOF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ISSUED FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

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QTE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JIOJI KOTOBALAVU, SAID TODAY

GOVT HAD NOT CHANGED POSITION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE.(NWFZ). HE WAS COMMENTING ON REPORTED STATEMENT BY FIJI-BASED COMMITTEE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT FIJI HAD ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE PRESSURED INTO ACCEPTING THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON TUESDAY BY THE FORUM.

QTE KOTOBALAVU SAID DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON RESOLUTION WHICH IT EVENTUALLY ADOPTED IN DEC 1975, ENDORSING THE IDEA OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NWFZ IN SOUTH PACIFIC, FIJI HAD MADE IT CLEAR IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT NWFZ WHICH WOULD DEPRIVE ANY STATE OF EXERCISING RIGHT OF FREE AND UNIMPEDED PASSAGE IN HIGH SEAS.

QTE HE SAID THAT TO IMPOSE TOTAL BAN ON FREE TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR POWERED AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS CARRYING SHIPS IN HIGH SEAS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.

QTE THERE WOULD ALSO BE NO GUARANTEE NUCLEAR POWERS WOULD RESPECT ZONE ESPECIALLY IF IT DEPRIVED THEM OF RIGHT OF FREE AND UNIMPEDED PASSAGE IN HIGH SEAS" HE ADDED.

QTE KOTOBALAVU EMPHASIZED THAT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY FORUM WAS IN FACT OUTCOME OF INITIATIVE BY FIJI FOR CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS ON NWFZ THAT WOULD PROHIBIT PRODUCTION AND TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHIN SOUTH PACIFIC AND ALSO TRANSFER OF POSSESSION OR CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO COUNTRIES WITHIN SOUTH PACIFIC REGION.

QTE "UNDER RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY FORUM, MEMBER GOVTS AGREED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A NWFZ. BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, SUCH ZONE SHOULD NOT PROHIBIT FREE TRANSIT THROUGH HIGH SEAS. ALSO, IT SHOULD NOT DISTURB ANY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING COUNTRIES WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION AND WHICH ARE DEPENDENT ON UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION THROUGH HIGH SEAS". UNQTE.
HALL

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